Funds for National Highways

2990. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any allocation has been made under C.R.F. to States for the year 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Report on BHU

2991. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report 'Kulpati Ke Karname' from Students Union of BHU;

(b) if so, the main points therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The report under question has been received very recently and is under examination.

[English]

Vayudoot Service

2992. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the State where Vayudoot service is under operation;

(b) the important cities and towns in those States connected by the Vayudoot services;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to extend Vayudoot service to Orissa;

(d) if so, whether the Government have a proposal to connect Anugul, Talcher and Dhenkanal under the Vayudoot map; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (e) Vayudoot is not operating in any State, since it was merged with Indian Airlines in 1993 as a separate division by name "Short Haul Operations Department" (SHOD). SHOD operates flights to Calcutta in West Bengal, Aizwal in Mizoram, Guwahati & Lilabari in Assam, Cochin/Trivandrum in Kerala and Agatti in Lakshadweep.

SHOD has, at present, no plans to extend its services. However, private operators are being encouraged to add more stations in their networks, subject to viability.

[Translation]

Shershah Suri National Highway

2993. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the historical Shershah Suri National Highway is in dilapidated condition;

(b) if not, the expenditure incurred thereon particularly on Bihar-Bengal Section during 1992-1997; and

(c) if a fixed amount has been shown each year under mainteanance head, whether the Government would get an enquiry conducted by the CBI into the expenditure incurred ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) National Highway No.2 is being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within available resources. Funds are allocated to the State in lumpsum and work-wise distribution thereof is left to the State dependding upon the priority, progress of work and to take care requirements of critical sections as per field conditions. The expenditure incurred during 1992-97 is given in the enclosed Statement,

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Expenditure incurred during 1992-97 for Development and Maintenance of National Highways in Bihar and West Bengal

Year	Bihar		West Bengal	
	Development work	Maintenance works	Development works	Maintenance works
		(Rs. in lakhs)		(Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1992-93	1385	1072.66	2230	1071.51

1	2	3	4	5
1993-94	1920	1276.45	3500	1760.45
1994-95	2221	1472.53	3987	1744.02
1995-96	1980*	1763.95	3310	1731.33
1996-97	1583.35*	2193.95	3608	3081.68

* In addition 43 kms length between Barwadda and Barakar on National Highway No.2 in Bihar is being widened to 4-lanes by National Highway Authority of India with ADB financcial assistance

[English]

Investigation in Explonage Case

2994. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned, "Scientist alleges research espionage" appearing in the 'Indian Express' (Express Newsline) dated July 12,1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was reported in the Indian Express (Express Newsline) dated 12th July, 1997 that one of the Assistant Research Officers of Central Soil and Materials Research Station, New Delhi, an attached office of the Ministry of Water Resources, had lodged a police complaint in Hauz Khas Police Station of New Delhi for theft of his paper viz. "S curve for computing true Cv and Isolation of Secondary Consolidation" which was sent for publication in the ASTM journal (American Society for Testing Materials). The said paper was returned by the ASTM with review comments to the said official by airmail to his official address at CSMRS. However, the officer reported that he did not receive the same.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, No investigation was deemed necessary as there was no evidence of any theft having occurred and the original paper being available in CSMRS computer, ASTM was requeted to send another copy of the review comments.

(e) Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the letter box is kept under lock and key and all the mail are put in the letter box. Only staff of Receipt & Issue Section are authorised to open the letter box so as to ensure that dak is delivered to the respective officers/ staff.

[Translation]

Production of L.P.G.

2995. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil companies have proposed to double their production of L.P.G. during the Ninth Five Year Plan to meet the increasing demand of L.P.G. in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) According to the projections of the IXth Plan Sub Groups Reports on Refining and Demand projections, for PSU oil companies and their joint ventures companies the LPG production is planned to be increased from 3.021 Million Metric Tonnes in 1997-98 to 5.048 Million Metric Tonnes in 2001-02.

Violation of University Statute

2996. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Vice Chancellor of BHU has conferred upon himself the degree of honorary professor of surgery in the meeting of academic council chaired by himself;

(b) whether this is not in violation of University Act and University Statute; and

(c) if so, the action being taken against the Vice-Chancellor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Banaras Hindu University and shall be laid on the Table of the House.